

Message

---

**From:** Washington, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDC3E8CE9F1D45C4894881FF420CA104-WASHINGTON, JOHN]  
**Sent:** 4/8/2020 8:38:38 PM  
**To:** Strynar, Mark [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5a9910d5b38e471497bd875fd329a20a-Strynar, Mark]  
**Subject:** Re: Science manuscript status

Wow -- Jennifer has always been a tough cookie. My SI could have been called for self plagiarism a couple of times in the past. And I have wondered about differentiating the Mat & Methods on two we are drafting now.

Same people, same practice, same instrumentation . . . leads to similar wording!

---

**From:** Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:20 PM  
**To:** Washington, John <Washington.John@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Science manuscript status

Just so you know I got this email from Jennifer Field from a co-author on another paper yesterday. "self'plagiarism"??? we enjoyed that one.

Enjoy,  
Mark

**From:** Environmental Science & Technology <[onbehalf@manuscriptcentral.com](mailto:onbehalf@manuscriptcentral.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 11:12 PM  
**Subject:** Revision requested for ES&T manuscript es-2019-05007u.R2  
**To:** <[greg\\_cope@ncsu.edu](mailto:greg_cope@ncsu.edu)>, <[gcope@ncsu.edu](mailto:gcope@ncsu.edu)>  
**Cc:** <[field-office@est.acs.org](mailto:field-office@est.acs.org)>

06-Apr-2020

Journal: Environmental Science & Technology  
Manuscript ID: es-2019-05007u.R2  
Title: "Trophodynamics of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in the Food Web of a Large Atlantic Slope River"  
Author(s): Penland, Tiffany; Cope, W. Gregory; Kwak, Thomas; Strynar, Mark; Grieshaber, Casey; Heise, Ryan; Sessions, Forrest

Revision due before: 27-Apr-2020

Dear Dr. Cope:

As noted below manuscripts are screened for self-plagiarism during review. There are several passages in this manuscript that need to be re-crafted as there is significant overlap with a prior work. Please see the attached file that outlines areas of significant overlap. Please pay particular attention to editing lines 165-185 and 191-203.

We are making a concerted effort to reduce our processing time from receipt to acceptance. To avoid inactivation of your manuscript, please return your revision by the due date. The revision of your manuscript is due before 27-Apr-2020. If you do not intend to revise the manuscript please let me know so that I can inactivate the submission.

ACS Publications uses Crossref Similarity Check Powered by iThenticate to detect instances of similarity in submitted manuscripts. In publishing only original research, ACS is committed to deterring plagiarism, including self-plagiarism. Your manuscript may be screened for similarity to published material.

We look forward to considering your revised paper. Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns as you proceed. Your interest in publishing your work in ES&T is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer A. Field  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-7301

Phone: 541-737-1765  
Fax: 541-737-0497  
E-mail: [field-office@est.acs.org](mailto:field-office@est.acs.org)  
-----

(office) 919-541-3706  
(mobile) 919-606-6905

---

**From:** Washington, John <Washington.John@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:12 PM  
**To:** Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Science manuscript status

Thanks Mark, Agreed across the board. Sounds as though you can see the same status I see. This is driving me a little crazy . . . I don't feel comfortable that it is accepted until I see that status. I hope your manuscript writing with James goes well. John

---

**From:** Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:08 PM  
**To:** Washington, John <Washington.John@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Science manuscript status

Thanks for the update. I looked today and saw a update on April 6th. I found it odd to be sent back to reviewers for the structure "change". It really was not a change, more simply a clarification or actually being more specific.

I like the cover art you proposed. I am asking as I want to cite the paper in a paper I am drafting (the use of NTA for PFAS discovery) and a paper James and I are writing.

Mark

Dr. Mark Strynar  
US EPA/ORD/CEMM

strynar.mark@epa.gov  
(office) 919-541-3706  
(mobile) Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

---

**From:** Washington, John <Washington.John@epa.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020 3:58 PM

**To:** Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) >; McCord, James <mccord.james@epa.gov>; Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>; Lindstrom, Andrew <Lindstrom.Andrew@epa.gov>; Bergman, Erica <erica.bergman@dep.nj.gov>; Goodrow, Sandra <Sandra.Goodrow@dep.nj.gov>; Tadesse, Haile <tadesse.haile@epa.gov>; Pilant, Drew <Pilant.Drew@epa.gov>; Washington, Benjamin <Washington.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Davis, Mary J. <davis.maryj@epa.gov>; Stuart, Brittany <Stuart.Brittany@epa.gov>; Thomas M Jenkins <Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)>  
**Subject:** Science manuscript status

Hi coauthors,

Mark asked about status of our submission and I have been planning to let you all know.

**Short answer:** The manuscript we submitted December 31, 2019 still officially is in review on April 8, 2020.

**Longer elaboration:**

1) After Mark sleuthed out the minor change in the molecular structure, I notified the editor. The editor did not seem too concerned and replied with this: "This Solvay paper seems to be fairly significant in the context of the claim that they didn't disclose the structures you uncovered . . . I think for that reason, it would be much clearer to go back to the reviewers with all the proper structures depicted in the figures."

2) So when I addressed the reviewers' comments (which you all have received), I also changed all figures as appropriate and added the references for the minor structural modification. I resubmitted our manuscript on March 18 (attached here) and had this response: "I'd like to go back to at least one or two reviewers here before proceeding, but I'll try to get feedback quickly."

3) I also inquired about submitting possible artwork for the cover (instruction to authors indicates the Science staff entertain this). Here was the editor's response: "When I hear back from the reviewers, we'll go through one more clean-up round if necessary, where you'll have a chance to upload additional files through the website."

3) In the last week or so we drafted cover art to be considered at Science (philosophy on this: maybe 1% chance of success, but 0% if we don't try). Considering possibly short review time and protracted clearance time, we submitted the drafts for clearance thru management up to Jennifer O-Z, then thru OPA. The cleared drafts are attached and being cleaned up right now by Haile, Emily Smith and Carrie Holz.

4) The editor has updated our submission portal twice since our resubmission -- the last time on Monday. I cannot see what the updates are, but guessed they were reviews being returned.

5) Between corona and this 1/3 year submission, this is really getting old.

Thanks for your patience,  
John

John Washington  
Research Chemist  
US EPA  
ORD/CEMM/EPD/CPSB  
Athens, GA  
Washington.John@epa.gov

Office: 706 355 8227

